

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-18 and 20-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rice (U.S. 20020174010) in view of Mockett (U.S. 20010037359). The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 12 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims 3-10 should all be allowable.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 12. Accordingly, claim 11 and dependent claims 13-17 should all be allowable.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 19. Accordingly, claim 18 and dependent claims 20-23 should all be allowable.


The remaining claims 24-29 have all been amended herein to include recitations that are similar to those in allowable claims 2, 12 and 19. Accordingly, claims 24-29 should all be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all the claims in the present application, as amended herein, should now be allowable to Applicants, and formal allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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